

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 OPR-02 AID-20 CU-04 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 SY-04 SCCT-02 NIC-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /158 W

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P 141126Z JUN 74

FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 053

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD PRIORITY

AMCONSUL KARACHI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LAHORE 0863

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PK

SUBJECT: SECTARIAN AND OTHER UNREST IN PUNJAB

REF: LAHORE 0854

1. DESPITE GENERALLY FAVORABLE PUBLIC REACTION TO PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO'S ADDRESS TO NATION EVENING JUNE 13 (BEING REPORTED BY EMBASSY ISLAMABAD), HARTAL IN PUNJAB JUNE 14 APPEARS TO BE ABOUT NINETY PERCENT SUCCESSFUL. IN LAHORE, MOST SHOPS AND ALL FACTORIES WERE CLOSED, ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND FOOD SHOPS WERE OPEN AND CITY-OWNED BUSES AND PRIVATE TAXIS WERE SEEN IN STREETS. AS OF 1600 LOCAL TIME CITY REMAINED QUIET, WITH MOST MEN INSIDE MOSQUES FOR FRIDAY PRAYERS. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE LAHORE INDICATED HARTAL WAS ALSO SUCCESSFUL IN MOST OTHER TOWNS, ALTHOUGH IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT MANY PUNJAB INDUSTRIAL TOWNS NORMALLY OBSERVE FRIDAY, RATHER THAN SUNDAY, AS WEEKLY HOLIDAY.

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2. ARMY UNITS TURNED OUT AGAIN JUNE 14 IN LAHORE, MULTAN,

LYALLPUR, SARGHODA, JHANG, GUJRANWALA, GUJRAT AND NUMBER OF SMALL TOWNS INCLUDING CHINIOT, HAFEEZABAD AND KHANEWAL. TROOPS WERE IN FULL BATTLE DRESS AND CARRIED MACHINE GUNS ON VEHICLES, BUT APPEARED TO BE OUT MERELY FOR SHOW RATHER THAN IN RESPONSE TO TROUBLE. FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE AND POLICE UNITS WERE ALSO SEEN THROUGHOUT CONSULAR DISTRICT.

3. CONGEN LOCAL EMPLOYEES REPORT THAT DURING LARGE PRAYER MEETINGS ON JUNE 14 MAULANAS GENERALLY DWELLED ON THEME THAT MOHAMMED WAS LAST PROPHET (REJECTING BY IMPLICATION AHMADIYA TENETS). JAC LEADERS ARE STILL EXPECTED TO HOLD PUBLIC MEEING IN MAJOR LAHORE MOSQUE AFTER PRAYER SESSION. ONE KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVER PREDICTED THAT JAC LEADERS WOULD CONGRATULATE THEMSELVES FOR SUCCESSFUL HARTAL, POINT OUT THAT HARTAL DEMONSTRATED JAC CONCERNS IN PEACEFUL MANNER, AND THEN ADVISE LISTENERS THAT PERHAPS PRIME MINISTER AD POINT IN HIS SUGGESTION TO REFER SECTARIAN ISSUE TO COUNCIL OF ISLAMIC IDEOLOGY OR TO NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.

3. OPPOSITION PRESS IN LAHORE JUNE 14 CARRIED ANNOUNCEMENT THAT TEHRIK ISTIQLAL (TI) LEADER ASGHAR KHAN WOULD ADDRESS PRESS CONFERENCE IN LAHORE LATE THAT AFTERNOON. HE WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS SECTARIAN ISSUE AND TAKE OCCASION TO BERATE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT ON OTHER MATTERS. TI HAS NOT YET JOINED JAC; NOR DID IT JOIN IN CALL FOR HARTAL. NAP IN LAHORE SEEMS UNDECIDED AS TO WHAT LINE TO TAKE CONCERNING AHMADIYAS, AND HAS REMAINED QUIET ON ISSUE SINCE NAP CENTRAL COMMITTEE OFFICER TOLD PRESS IN KARACHI JUNE 12 THAT PARTY DIS-AGREES WITH UDF DEMANDS.
GRIFFIN

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